

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the Application.

By this Amendment, the specification is amended as above-shown to overcome the objections thereto, and claims 1 and 5 are amended for improved clarity and precision. For at least the reasons herein, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the disclosure due to the alleged reference to claim numbers is improper under MPEP § 608.01(b). As shown in the foregoing amendments, Applicant has amended the specification to overcome these objections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of those rejections.

II. Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for stating that claims 2-4 and 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that claims 9-15 are allowed.

III. Claims 1 and 5 Are Novel

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected due to alleged anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 6,523,696). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Saito fails to disclose all of the claimed combinations of features, as required for an anticipation rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Independent claims 1 and 5 require, *inter alia*, forwarding of the internet packets from an edge router towards the destination host based only on the global internet address.

Saito discloses a communication control device for realizing a uniform service providing environment without reliance on a particular network. In its second embodiment, Saito discloses that (1) various terminals, including audio visual devices, are connected to a first home network and other terminals are connected to a second home network, such that the first and second home networks are connected via an internet (Saito Fig. 7); (2) terminals of the home network have their own IP addresses, which are assumed to be private IP addresses (Saito, col. 19, lines 6-10); and (3) when the public network to which the home network is connected is the internet, the IP terminals of the home network are addressable using global IP addresses, such that “it is assumed that the routing mechanism [of the home network] setting (such as the IP routing table setting [of the home network routers]) for purposes of routing among these terminals is already properly made” (Saito, col. 19, lines 16-22, underline and bracketed words added by Applicant). Thus in the system of Saito, the global IP addresses presuppose a routing mechanism internal to the home network. This routing mechanism is the network addressing translation technique (NAT) for private networks known in the prior art.

Saito does not disclose or suggest any type of private network routing based only on the global internet address. Applicant respectfully requests that the Saito reference be read without the benefit of Applicant's disclosure and without impermissible hindsight reconstruction.

Understood without recourse to Applicant's disclosure, Saito's system presupposes a routing mechanism internal to the home network to perform routing in the conventional manner using network addressing translation technique (NAT), that is, with the routers of the home network using address translation to arrive at the private addresses of the home network terminals.

Accordingly, Saito does not disclose or suggest forwarding of the internet packets from an edge router towards the destination host based only on the global internet address, as *inter alia* required by claims 1 and 5.

Thus, Saito does not disclose or suggest all the recitations of independent claims 1 and 5. In fact, Applicant's disclosure (page 1) identifies NAT as part of the prior art. Therefore, Saito belongs to the prior art identified by Applicant's disclosure.

IV. Conclusion

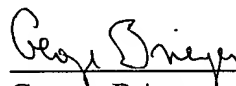
In view of the foregoing discussion, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/348,575

Q55017

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 12, 2003